

100 people on the street. Ask how many of them know what is the concept of multiple use, what does multiple use mean. Give them a hint: it applies to the Western United States. What does multiple use mean?

My guess is out of 100, 99 cannot tell you. I am not saying they are ignorant or being critical of them; I am just saying it is not in their environment. They are entirely removed from the concept of multiple use. They are entirely removed from the ramifications of public lands.

But you go to a State like Alaska, for example, which is 98 percent owned by the government, or Nevada, and stop 100 people in Nevada and say what is the concept of multiple use? What is the concept of public lands? You are going to get an entirely different viewpoint, because those people experience it.

My purpose here this evening with my colleagues is to tell you that as we talk about some of these land-use decisions, as we talk about the Endangered Species Act, as we talk about our national parks, as we talk about our Bureau of Land Management, as we talk about the U.S. Forest Service, as we talk about people that recreate, whether it is on a mountain bike or kayaking, or as we talk about water in the West, understand, please understand, there is a clear distinction between how and what the ramifications are of those issues here in the East versus those in the West.

I have often heard people say, well, now, just a minute, SCOTT. This land belongs to all of the people, and that we people in the East, you should pay more attention to us, because this land in the West, that should be preserved.

I do not disagree with that comment at all, and we do a darn good job of it. We do a darn good job, because, you know what, we depend on that land. If we abuse the land, we suffer first.

But what kind of gets under our hide, gets under our saddle back there in the West, is when we have people who say to us, look, go ahead and kick the people in the West off their lands; but since we privately own it in the East, it will not have any impact on us.

What we are saying to our colleagues in the East is, look, understand what the concept is. Before you draw a position down, before you take a vote, try and determine or take a look or educate yourself on the concept of multiple use.

You know, when you hear from somebody, for example, the National Sierra Club, I do not think the National Sierra Club, which carries a lot of heavy weight here in the United States Congress, I do not think they have ever supported a water storage project in the history of that organization. Now, a lot of the things that that organization may do might be good; but before you sign on in opposition to water projects in the West, before you sign on to some of the ridiculous things that have come out, like, for example, take

down the dam at Lake Powell and let the water go, understand what water in the West means; understand what multiple use in the West means.

The public lands in this country, as I have said over and over in my comments this evening, are not evenly spread across the 50 States. In fact, they are concentrated in about 11 States. That is where the majority of your holdings are. Eighty-some percent of those government lands are in those 11 States. The consequences to those 11 States are a whole lot different than the consequences to the other 39 States, some of whose public lands, really, are just the local courthouse.

So in conclusion and as a summary of these remarks tonight, I am just asking that my colleagues in the East begin to have a better understanding of what we face in the West. We are here in the West and we speak loudly from the West because, one, we are small in number because of population; but we also have the clearer understanding of what it is like to live with the government at your back doorstep, at your front doorstep and your side windows. Everywhere you look you have got government around you.

I would ask my colleagues from the East, work with us in the West. Help us protect that concept of multiple use. Help us continue our balanced use of the lands out there. Help us provide for future generations by using a balanced approach and by not automatically saying no water storage, not automatically saying no grazing, not automatically saying no utilization, not automatically saying take the recreation off those forests lands or take the recreation from those BLM lands.

We are totally and completely dependent upon these lands. We could not live in those States, nobody, nobody could live out there in those States in the West without this multiple use concept of Federal lands.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0045

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 353, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 107-380) on the resolution (H. Res. 372) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 353) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2003 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2007, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3924, FREEDOM TO TELECOMMUTE ACT OF 2002

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-381) on the resolution (H. Res. 373) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3924) to authorize telecommuting for Federal contractors, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. SHOWS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and March 20 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. SHAYS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINOJOSA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTKNECHT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, March 20 and 21.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.